

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph.

[0001] The present application incorporates by reference SEQ ID NO: 1, [[and]] SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 4 provided herewith on a diskette, created on January 11, 2005 and containing 5,979 bytes. The information recorded on the diskette is identical to the written sequence listing provided herein.

Please replace paragraph [0039] with the following amended paragraph.

[0039] Table 9 illustrates an analysis of the binding of biotinylated amino acid sequence 17 – 28 of human fibrinogen A α Chain (SAC[KBtn]) to RA synovial fibroblasts by Flow Cytometry. The biotinylated control peptide (~~KREE~~) (KREE - SEQ ID NO: 3) represents corresponding sequences derived from the B/beta chain of fibrinogen following removal of Fibrinopeptide B.

TABLE 9

GPRVVERHQSAC[KBtn] = SAC [KBtn]
GHRPLDKKREE[KBtn] = KREE[KBtn] = control peptide

RA #16		% Cells Positive	Mean Fluorescent Channel
Avidin-FITC		3.6	13.71
SAC [KBtn]	200 ug	80.0	125.1
SAC [KBtn]	100 ug	86.3	257.9
KREE [KBtn]	100 ug	10.6	20.37

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following amended paragraph.

[0041] These data suggest that unlabeled fibrin, unlabeled GPRVVERHQSAC (SAC) (SEQ ID NO: 4) and unlabeled GPRP can compete with biotin-labeled SAC for binding to human synovial fibroblasts. This competition further suggests that the labeled peptide competitively binds to a specific cell surface receptor of synovial cells. Thus, labeled peptide could facilitate the isolation, identification and characterization of its receptor, through standard immunological techniques such as immunohistochemistry, flow cytometry and immunoprecipitation.